

-How has your tree come under threat or attack from the forces of colonial extraction? Are they part of endangered forests? Have they been isolated from their web of relations by urban sprawl? Strained under climate change?

-Who are the more-than-human Spirits living with(in) these trees? Are these entities known through folklore? Spiritual tradition? Song? Resistance action?

Read full submission prompt with guidelines at:

severedbranchespress.com

Cascadian Midsummer

We are honored to host some workshop space at this summer solstice festival out on Chehalis/Willapa land in so-called Washington State. Our talk entitled "A Circle of Branches: In Defense of the World Tree" will share about this literary project in weaving place-based animism with land defense and how this journal is part of a larger struggle to reanimate cultural imagination in the face of mounting loss and violence around us. This will be particularly poignant this year as the forest edge we have been gathering in for over a decade is now under threat of deforestation by our state's stewards. A legal fundraiser has been launched to support our landmates' effort to protect this beloved forest. We look forward to gathering with you there.
<https://www.cmfest.org/>

Our world is under assault. Reflections on the War against Life

Again, as his-story repeats, the many-headed hydra feeds endlessly on our suffering. It drinks deep of our fear, and scoffs at our attempts at liberation. In all directions we face the wreckage of dystopian miasmata. The beast must be laid to ruin. To return this beast to the void from which it festers forth as an infectious wound, not one head must be severed, but all heads. May these words be a prayer for the Living, and a curse to those who would stop at nothing to take our final breath.

There is strength in our bodies. May we remember that strength. There is beauty in our wholeness. May we remember that wholeness. May the beast of Capitalism, of Extraction, of Genocide, of War, of Poisoned Foods & Waters, of Sickening Wealth, of Oppression, of Technomancy, and those multitudinal malignancies who hold contempt for Life—may these beast be severed so that all might live, so that the beings awaiting their time to live be welcomed by our songs and sacrifices. Our work lays as an offering at the altar of Life. May the stories we create together deepen our roots and remind us for whom we fight. May the venom in our bodies be given to the transmutation of profane into Sacred.



Stay safe and earthbound as you traverse these cycles of repression and resilience. We have each other, and together we will find a way back to sacred knowing. We raise our hands to you in gratitude...

~Severed Branches Press
Steh Chass, South Salish Sea

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Severed Branches Press

: Spring Equinox Newsletter :



Vernal greetings

upon this threshold of solar return, friends. The nettles are now growing tall and the procession of buds and blooms throughout our forests is now apace under the sun's strengthening light. We've been quite busy tending to the roots of our collective through this long winter, preparing to scale up operations to coax full-length books into existence across Turtle Island and beyond. We are coming up on a year since our humble beginnings of those self-released zines *Unsettling Ecologies* and *Woundscapes*, and we're excited to welcome more projects from this growing community as we press on.

It's been such a gift to build connections with so many of you these past several months, and it's no small thing to be bringing intention and medicine in times like this. Here are a few announcements and further resources for what lays ahead from us this summer.



Fight Like an Animal

Revolutionary Biology in Defence of Life

Many of you have been patiently anticipating our inaugural book release by comrade Arnold Schroder, *Fight Like an Animal: Revolutionary Biology in Defense of Life*. We will be issuing pre-order links on our online store soon, so keep an eye on our Instagram for imminent announcements on that front.

Spanning multiple genres, this text will simultaneously have something for everyone while challenging us to stretch our ways of knowing in how we do the hard work of integrating theory and action in the real world. *Fight Like An Animal* will be available Beltane, 5/1.

Additionally, part of the aforementioned operational level-up means that we soon hope to have our offerings available at a great many independent bookstores across Turtle Island beyond our own neck of the woods. We would love to hear from you if you think a local seller would enjoy carrying our work—do reach out via our contact at the back of our newsletter. A word regarding *Fight like an Animal*:

The stories we tell matter, especially when we aren't aware we're telling them, or how they shape our behavior.

*In *Fight Like An Animal*, Arnold Schroder argues that all modern conceptions of politics, from anarchism to fascism, exhibit a shared confusion. All are based on some form of the nature-nurture binary: the idea that human behavior is either biologically or socially-determined, and that the more it is biological, the less it is social. This idea is not simply wrong, but logically incoherent. We can only adapt to so many different kinds of society through a highly-structured biology, which we should seek to understand if we wish to find new ways of living.*

*Based on decades of immersion in the environmental movement, *Fight Like An Animal* describes how largely-forgotten debates about human nature still have concrete impacts on political projects today. When we escape the confusion they cause, we can direct our attention to something that should be obvious: individual differences in political personality. Political personality is the core orientation to the world from which specific political behaviors and perceptions emerge. We must ask how different kinds of people shape societies in different ways, and how people are shaped, in turn, by the societies they create. Neither of these questions make sense in isolation: they are endlessly entangled.*

*Using this integrative framework, Schroder offers simple, readily-accessible tools for conceiving of social change processes and crafting strategic initiatives, whether for a book club or a global revolution. Applying insights gained everywhere from oil refinery blockades to baboon stress hormone profiles, *Fight Like An Animal* is an earnest argument that, no matter how mired in darkness and confusion, the world can make sense.*

Discover more from Arnold Schroder at:
<https://www.againsttheinternet.com/>



Defending the World Tree

Volume 2: Trees of Ceremony

Our ongoing call for submissions for this second issue of DWT (available for summer solstice) will be closing in just two weeks' time—if you have been contemplating joining us in this theme's curation, we would love to hear from you, but soon! And if you missed out on acquiring last year's first issue, fear not—we will gladly bundle both issues together at a discount in gratitude for your support as these releases fund our capacity to grow as a collective. Here is a synopsis of this issue's prompt:

Most human cultures across the world have ceremonies centered around some tree of power. Many have one or a few in particular that act as their axis mundi, their "tree of life" or "world tree" for how deeply central they are to a people's material and spiritual sustenance. But nearly all trees in all bioregions are laden with meaning, some ethnobotanical use transmuted into cultural wisdom through song, folklore, and even teachings. Sacred trees shape us not only in their place-making presence but also in their absence when they are killed, as too many peoples throughout centuries of imperial and colonial force have been forced to grieve their loss.

-Who are the trees your community is in relationship with? What makes these trees sacred to you?

-What ceremonies have humans held with these trees over generations? What cultures are actively being awakened or reimagined through these engagements?